

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5055

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ILO, UK

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL

LABOR OFFICE: A PRELIMINARY CBI VIEW

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REF: STATE 204762; LONDON 12091 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TIM HEALY, CBI OFFICIAL AND THE UK'S DEPUTY ILO EMPLOYER DELEGATE, SAID THAT THE CBI WISHES FIRST TO SOUND OUT OTHER EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES AT THE NOVEMBER GOVERNING BODY MEETING BEFORE DECIDING ON WHOM TO SUPPORT TO SUCCEED WILFRED JENKS AS ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL. END SUMMARY

2. HEALY SAID THAT THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES (CBI) DOES NOT HAVE A CANDIDATE IT WOULD "WISH TO PUSH" BUT THAT IT DOES FAVOR SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE THE ORGANIZATION. SUCH A CANDIDATE COULD COME, HE SAID, FROM THE DIPLOMATIC AREA OR PERHAPS FROM ONE OF THE OTHER UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES. AN OUTSIDER OF THIS KIND, HE BELIEVES, WOULD HELP TO OBTAIN THE INTERNAL SCRAMBLE FOR THE JOB AMONG THE VARIOUS DEPUTY DIRECTORS GENERAL.

3. THE CBI OFFICIAL SAID THAT HIS GENEVA SOURCES HAD INFORMED HIM THAT TWO OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTORS GENERAL, BLANCHARD AND BOLIN, WERE LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR THE JENKS SUCCESSION. HE NOTED THAT BLANCHARD WAS 64 AND "WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER SHORT-TERM DIRECTOR GENERAL." IT WAS ALSO HIS "PERSONAL FEELING" THAT BOLIN, WHO IS "PURELY" A TRADE UNIONIST, WOULD GET SCANTY EMPLOYER SUPPORT.

4. HEALY WAS AWARE THAT TREVOEDJRE (DAHOMY) WAS ALSO A CANDIDATE AND WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF AFRICANS AND PERHAPS ASIANS, ALTHOUGH THIS SUPPORT WOULD NOT BE REFLECTED IN THE GOVERNING BODY, WHICH HAS THE ACTUAL POWER TO CHOOSE A SUCCESSOR TO JENKS. THE ENGLISH SPEAKING AFRICANS, PARTICULARLY THE NIGERIANS, MOREOVER, ARE "NOT TOO HAPPY" HE ADDED, ABOUT TREVOEDJRE, WHO IS A FRANCOPHONE, AND WOULD PREFER KOKU (NIGERIA) INSTEAD.

5. HEALY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WANT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO ELECT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, THE CBI IS HOPING THAT THE GOVERNING BODY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL CONTINUE TO WIELD THAT POWER. THE CONFERENCE, HE POINTED OUT, "IS TOO UNWIELDY" AND IF IT WERE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ELECTION, "NOTHING ELSE WOULD BE DONE" AT THE CONFERENCE. HEALY BELIEVES THAT THE GOVERNING BODY IN NOVEMBER WILL FIX A DATE, PROBABLY ITS FEBRUARY MEETING, TO MAKE THE DECISION, SO THAT A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL WILL BE IN PLACE IN AMPLE TIME FOR THE JUNE CONFERENCE.

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